



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

No. 133

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, full of compassion and love, Your voice is over the waters, full of majesty, so we give You the glory due to Your Name. As we approach another 9/11 anniversary, with threats of terror in the air, give strength to Your people and bless us with Your peace. Remind us that though we cannot always prevent tragedies, we can choose to respond to them with faith and trust in You.

Lord, bless our Senators in their labors today. Empower them with Your presence, sustain them with Your spirit, encourage them with Your word, and renew them with Your grace. You, O God, are our strength and our sure defense.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 9, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business. During that period of time, Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no votes today.

I am working with the House to find out what they can work with us on. We know we have the FAA bill, which expires next Friday. The highway bill expires at the end of this month. Those are the two primary issues we are working on, in addition to the FEMA problems we have in Virginia and around the rest of the country. We are going to make a decision today on what we will move forward on, but I need to hear from the House first.

### AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I applaud the bipartisan approach taken by the President last night regarding his jobs act. He described it and described it well. It is really a commonsense plan, and this plan will be a tax cut for middle-class families and even small businesses. It will put laid-off teachers and first responders back to work. It will send construction workers to jobsites around the country to renovate schools and to build roads and bridges. It will also ensure that Iraq and Afghan veterans who have returned from serving

their country come home to a job. It will also help Americans who have been unemployed for far too long keep their families afloat while they look for jobs.

Reagan Republicans would have embraced this reasonable, commonsense approach, the so-called American Jobs Act. All the ideas in this legislation have been supported by Democrats and Republicans in years past. Some of the ideas originally came from Republicans.

This jobs plan won't add a single penny to the deficit. In fact, we all know reducing unemployment is the fastest way to reducing the debt.

I urge reasonable Republicans to resist the voices of the tea party and others who would oppose this legislation and root for our economy to fail. It is sad that they do, but they do, and they do it for political reasons. They should see that this proposal is made up of bipartisan ideas, supported in the past by Members of both parties. They must not continue to bow to the tea party Republicans, who are willing to do anything to hurt the President. Instead of hurting the President, they are causing a tea party recession. We cannot allow their radical political agenda to crowd out America's jobs agenda.

The uncertainty of this summer—the fight over whether to default on our financial obligations and a shocking credit downgrade—has rocked an economy that was already shaky. But this fall and this legislation offer us an opportunity to set the American economy back on the right track, and we need to do that.

I look forward to studying the President's bill. The Senate will begin debate on this proposal as soon as possible. I know not every Republican will support this legislation, and I know not every Democrat will support all aspects of the legislation, but it is a good piece of legislation, and we need to work together. I look forward to an open, honest, and respectful debate. So I hope my Republican colleagues will

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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